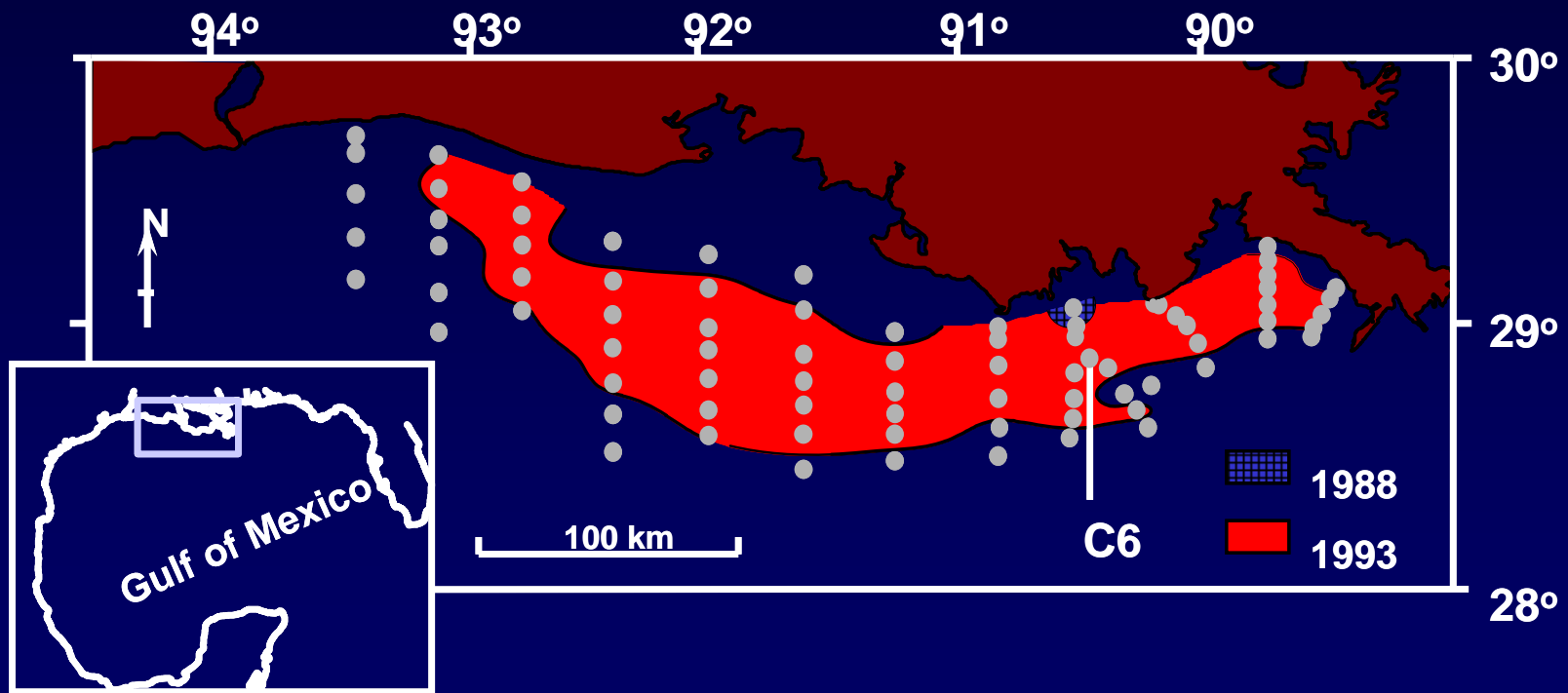


Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (*GOM Hypoxia Task Force*)



Robert Magnien, NOAA CC Rep. & TF Alt.

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (*GOM Hypoxia Task Force*)



MEMBERSHIP

States: MS, LA, MN, WI, IL, IA, OH, AR, TN,
MO

Tribes

Federal Agencies: EPA, NOAA, USDA, DOI,
ACOE, CEQ, OSTP

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force (*GOM Hypoxia Task Force*)



- Task Force Background
- Current Task Force Activities
- How Can the GoMA Make a Difference?

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force



BACKGROUND

- Formed in 1997
- Held 14 meetings
- TF and activities mandated by 1998 Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA)
- Developed Integrated Assessment in 2000
- Developed Action Plan in 2001

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force



CURRENT ACTIVITIES

- Developing Sub-Basin Committees
- Updating the 2001 Action Plan – Adaptive Mgmt.
 - 4 symposia to review science issues – upper basin mgmt; Gulf science; lower basin mgmt.; source, fate & transport of nutrients
 - Hypoxia Advisory Panel formed - EPA SAB
 - Themes for Action Plan approved by Task Force
 - Coordinating Committee starting policy work

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force



THEMES FOR ACTION PLAN UPDATE

- Accommodating Emerging Issues: Biofuels, Farm Bill, Lower Basin Wetland Losses
- Including greater specificity and accountability
- Tracking program and environmental progress
- Adapting to new scientific findings
- Maximizing stakeholder input
- Reexamining roles and responsibilities of Task Force partners

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force



HOW CAN THE GoMA MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Support Lower Basin Committee – Local input and broader involvement are keys to success
- Support Coordinating Committee and Task Force Directly – You can bring Governor-level attention
- Make Connections Between Existing Programs for Nutrient Reduction – Win-win-wins exist for local & regional solutions at varying scales for multiple impacts

Mississippi River/Gulf of Mexico Watershed Nutrient Task Force



HOW CAN THE GoMA MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- Support Conservation/Nutrient Reduction Provisions in Farm Bill – Debate and opportunity is now
- Support Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act (HABHRCA) Reauthorization – Continues critical science support for hypoxia and other GoMA issues